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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**August 30, 2002**

### **Border Patrol Agents Seize 47.6 Pounds of Cocaine**

#### *Illicit Cargo Hidden in Secret Compartment*

FALFURRIAS, Texas—Yesterday morning, U. S. Border Patrol Agents of the Falfurrias Border Patrol Station arrested a man transporting 47.6 pounds of cocaine hidden within the vehicle he was driving.

At approximately 8:15 a.m., agents of the Falfurrias Border Patrol Station inspected a 2002 silver Peugeot being driven by a citizen of Mexico. The Mexican national, who entered the United States as a visitor became nervous as the Border Patrol Agent questioned him as to his citizenship while another Border Patrol Agent with a canine performed a free-air, non-intrusive inspection of the exterior of Rodriguez's vehicle. The canine alerted positively to the presence of narcotics or persons hidden within the vehicle and the Mexican citizen was referred to secondary after consenting to a search of his vehicle.

Once in the secondary inspection area, agents discovered a secret compartment in the trunk area of the vehicle concealing 18 bundles of a white powdery substance that tested positive for cocaine. The Mexican citizen was arrested for Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, a felony. The Drug Enforcement Agency took custody of the driver and the contraband for further disposition.

-USBP-

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For more information contact the McAllen Border Patrol Sector Public Affairs Office, SBPA Xavier Rios at (956) 984-3848 or SBPA Julio Salinas Jr. at (956) 984-3855.